# Rabies

**What is rabies?**
Rabies is a disease of the central nervous system that can present itself, in some form, in almost every mammal.

**How is rabies transmitted?**
Typically, rabies is transmitted through bites from infected animals. Because the virus lives in saliva and mucous membranes of infected animals, contact with these fluids can lead to infection. Rabies is not transmitted through blood, urine or feces.

**What are the signs of infection?**
In animals, signs of infection can include fever, lethargy, loss of appetite, difficulty swallowing, abnormal behavior, paralysis, ataxia, seizures, and aggression.

**What can I do to prevent my animals from contracting rabies?**
The best prevention for dogs, cats, and ferrets is to keep your pet current on their rabies vaccination and keep them under your supervision so as to avoid exposure to other animals which may be infected.

**Are there any testing or vaccination requirements for rabies?**
Idaho requires all dogs and cats 12 weeks of age and older to be vaccinated prior to importing an animal into the state. All import requirements can be viewed on our website. There is no mandatory vaccination for resident animals, but it is recommended to keep your animals up-to-date on vaccination so as to avoid infection through exposure to infected wildlife.

**Can rabies infect humans?**
Yes; rabies can infect all mammals, humans included.

**Who do I contact if I am concerned about an animal or person being exposed to rabies?**
All testing and quarantines are handled through the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare.

Rabies is a reportable disease in Idaho. View the full list on our website.

ISDA - Animal Industries
2270 Old Penitentiary Rd
Boise, ID 83712
PO Box 7249, Boise, ID 83707
Phone: 208-332-8540
Fax: 208-334-4062
Email: animal_info@isda.idaho.gov

If you have a question that is not covered here, please contact Animal Industries by email or at (208) 332-8540.